

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-2252V

LANCE ZEIMETZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 4, 2023

*Catherine Wallace Costigan, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for
Petitioner.*

Andrew Henning, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON DAMAGES¹

On December 2, 2021, Lance ZeimetZ filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine he received on October 9, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 13, 2023, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On August 3, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”). Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$182,233.01 (representing \$172,500.00 for pain and suffering, and \$9,733.01 for out-of-pocket medical and related expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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LANCE ZEIMETZ,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 21-2252V (ECF)
)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
v.)	
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

I. Procedural History

On December 2, 2021, Lance Zeimet (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, *as amended*. Petitioner alleges that, as a result of receiving the influenza (“flu”) vaccine on October 9, 2019, he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”). *See* Petition at 1. On March 9, 2023, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) Report, concluding that petitioner suffered GBS as defined by the Vaccine Injury Table, within the Table timeframe. ECF No. 33. On March 13, 2023, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a ruling on entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation for a GBS Table injury. ECF No. 34.

II. Items of Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$182,233.01**, for all damages, including \$172,500.00 representative of pain and

¹ This Proffer does not include attorneys' fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

suffering, and \$9,733.01 representative of out-of-pocket medical and related expenses. This lump sum amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

III. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: A lump sum payment of **\$182,233.01** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.² Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

² Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

/s/ ANDREW J. HENNING

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DATED: August 3, 2023